

RALLYING TO DEFEND ISLAM

Mohammedans Deeply Stirred by Italy's Invasion of Tripoli and France's Operations in Morocco

At the time Italy declared war against Turkey and invaded Tripoli there was very little thought given to the wider consequences that might flow from her action. It was believed that with the landing of the Italian army in overwhelming force, supported by the guns of a formidable fleet, there would be no more resistance than could be offered by the small body of Turkish troops left in the country, some 8,000 men, and that the Government at Constantinople would accept the inevitable and submit to the loss of its outlying African province.

But the unexpected happened, and not only did the handful of Turkish troops under the command of several able officers put up a good resistance but the desert tribes moved by the preaching of the duty of all Moslems to rally to the standard of Islam flocked in thousands from the interior of the country to fight against the invaders. So it came about that the campaign was prolonged from the expected couple of months to over a year, and time was given for what might have been only a temporary ebullition of sympathy for the Sultan as the Khalif of Islam to become a widespread movement of solidarity among the followers of the Prophet all over the world.

The countries that naturally contribute most largely to this impulse of union are

apart from the Turkish Empire, Great Britain, France and Russia. It is estimated that there are not less than 90,000,000 of Mohammedans directly under British rule, of whom some 67,000,000 are in India, the rest being in Africa. Those under Russian number about 10,000,000, while the French republic claims nearly 20,000,000.

Add to these the 10,000,000 of Persians, 5,000,000 of Afghans and the indeterminate millions of Mussulmans in the territories of China and it will be seen that the holder of the Khalifate of Islam obtains the recognition of probably not far from 150,000,000 of people as the head of their faith.

But Islamism is even more than a faith, it is a brotherhood in which men of all races and colors meet on a footing of fraternity in belief in the One God and Mohammed as His Prophet. To this brotherhood is now applied the term of Pan-Islam, to indicate that it is worldwide and embraces the Moslems of all countries, and its manifestation is spoken of as Pan-Islamism; but never before has the Islamic consciousness been so stirred as since Italy made war on Turkey last year.

Throughout British India and all over Africa the sentiment of Islamic unity has grown to such an extent that it is forcing the attention of the Governments

and entering into the calculations of their Foreign Offices. In the mosques of India prayers are offered up for the success of the Turkish arms, and many protests have reached the India Office in London from India against the attitude of the British Government during the Turkish-Italian war; but the weakness of Islamism is its want of political unity, the absence of a political head.

With the best of good will the Moslems under other than Mohammedan rulers cannot enter into political alliances with the Khalif at Constantinople; all they can afford him is moral support, a poor equivalent for men and guns, and sums of money that do not go very far in war. For that reason the Moslems of Asia are looking for a champion who can come to the rescue of the threatened Islamic States, more especially of Persia, and they believe they have found him in the person of the Amir Habibullah Khan, King of Afghanistan.

Although the sovereign of a comparatively small State, the Amir Habibullah enjoys the prestige of being the only independent Moslem ruler in the world. His country has no public debt with a foreign commission controlling its finances; it has a respectable and fairly well trained army, it manufactures its own rifles, ammunition and guns of the smaller calibres and its inhabitants possess an indomitable spirit of independence. It has enabled them to maintain their freedom against all comers up to now.

When the British and Russian Governments came to an understanding regarding Afghanistan and Persia four years ago the British made communication of the arrangement to the Amir, but he paid no attention to it nor to the successive reminders sent to him since and declined to be present at the Durbar when King George V. was proclaimed Emperor of India.

Some years ago when the Amir visited India he was received with royal honors and created a very favorable impression among the Hindus, whose good will he gained by counselling the Mohammedans everywhere he went to live in harmony and good relations with them. On his return to his own country he started many reforms. The construction of roads and the establishment of factories and the extension of the telegraph system were among the things to which he gave much attention. All concessions asked for mines and other enterprises by foreigners were refused and the extension of the Indian railways is strictly prohibited. An automobile service from the Indian frontier to Kabul, the capital, has been established and is being extended to other cities as roads are constructed.

But, as might be expected, the Amir devotes much of his attention to military matters. With a view to increasing the efficiency of his army, which numbers over 60,000 regulars, he requested the Turkish Government about two years ago to send him some officers to form a training school at Kabul for instructors. This request the Turkish Government readily complied with, and quite recently it was announced that the first class of the newly trained instructors had been sent to the various military centres to begin their duties.

To a great extent Afghanistan is a self-contained country, its 300,000 square miles of territory producing all the raw materials necessary to the wants of the people, even for the manufacture of smokeless powder for the army. The machinery for the various factories was imported from Europe and set up by skilled mechanics, some of them Germans, who were all discharged so soon as native and Indian supervisors were trained. So great is the jealousy and suspicion of foreigners among the Afghans that none are admitted to the country without special permission, and they are obliged to leave so soon as their object has been accomplished.

During the present year there were disturbances on his eastern frontier in the Khost Valley, one of the approaches to Kabul from British India, but by the exercise of tact and the dismissal of the

official who was the offending cause order was restored without bloodshed, the Amir declaring that Moslems should not shed the blood of brother Moslems. In order to cover his frontier as far as possible from sudden invasion he permitted the transit through Afghanistan from the Persian Gulf and coast of large quantities of modern rifles and ammunition to arm the border tribes during the last two years. The British warships along the Persian and Beluchistan coast have now stopped that traffic and the tribes depend on Kabul for their ammunition.

Fanatically tenacious of their independence and attached to their faith, the Afghan people are a dangerous proposition to tackle, and the recent events in Turkey and Persia have, so it is stated, created a strong sentiment of sympathy for their distant Moslem brothers and neighbors among them, which is likewise felt among the Mussulmans of India in a high degree.

Stimulus has been given to this feeling in a variety of ways. The London Times recently published what was a decidedly alarmist letter from a correspondent in India describing the ferment caused by returning pilgrims to the holy places of Islam, and by Turkish and Arab travellers who, it appears, have been seen in India in unusual numbers since the outbreak of the Turkish-Italian War. The result has been an extraordinary development of Pan-Islamism in India and Afghanistan, and a great exaltation of the prestige of the Amir Habibullah. The Amir has not failed to take advantage of the almost universal manifestation of respect paid him, and in a meeting held in Kabul during the present year to express sympathy with the Turks he spoke in no uncertain manner. He said:

"Italian princesses having voluntarily left the ease and comfort of home are gone to attend to their wounded and give consolation to their sick soldiers. We should count ourselves less than women if we were to show any lack of promptitude in coming to the rescue of the wounded and to the aid of the widows and orphans of the martyrs among our Moslem brethren at Tripoli.

"Let me remind you of the fact that if we were not given the privilege of rendering physical help to and of co-operating on the battlefield, with our brethren in the faith on account of distance and great obstacles we can at least try to contribute our mite of money to the funds raised for the aid of the wounded and the survivors of the martyrs. If the sight were not deemed worthy to look at the face of the beloved I shall send then the sound of my cry to the spot where the loved one dwells."

"The meritorious work which your king is exhorting you to do is good for you both here and hereafter. Even if one went begging for the work of relief it would not be deemed unworthy."

"Let every one, therefore, contribute what he or she can afford without in any way feeling ashamed of the smallness of the contribution. We open the list with our own hand and contribute twenty thousand rupees of Kabul coin from our private purse."

Sirdar Nasrullah Khan, brother of the King, then delivered a stirring address in which he appealed to all the Moslems of Afghanistan to follow the good example of his Majesty and join the glorious work of assisting the Moslems who were shedding their blood in defending their faith and country. This speech, the report says, caused great emotion and the Amir and all the princes turned in the direction of the Kaabah at Mecca and prayed for the success of the Turkish arms and the glory of Islam. The Amir then led in performing the "Salat al Akr" or afternoon prayer.

The Turks employed in the military and civil service of the Afghan Government then thanked the Amir and the Moslems of Afghanistan for their expressions of sympathy toward the Moslems of Turkey and for the money sub-

scribed for the sufferers by the war. Then a Hindu, who is a Colonel in the Afghan army, rose and said:

"His Majesty's servant, Dewan Naranjan Das, who has been eating the salt of Afghanistan for years past, expresses his own sentiments as well as the sentiments of all Hindus who live in Afghanistan. Our lives and property are always at the service of the King. We also share the sorrow of his Majesty on account of the war in Tripoli.

"As we are, by the grace of God, in a position to render monetary help we will do so most willingly and will follow the noble example of his Majesty, for whose long life, health and prosperity we always pray."

This account of what was probably the first political meeting that ever was held in Afghanistan with the sovereign presiding is taken from a copy of the *Islamic Fraternity*, a paper in the English language published in Japan and edited by Prof. Mohammed Barakatullah of the School of Languages in Tokio. The

professor is a subject of the Begum (Nawab) of Bhopal, the hereditary female sovereign of that State and a Mohammedan. She is entitled to a salute of nineteen guns and stands at the head of the list of Indian rulers of the second rank. She went to England for King George's coronation and before returning to India paid a prolonged visit to Constantinople and made the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Owing to the decidedly anti-British tone of the *Islamic Fraternity* its circulation was forbidden in India on the ground that it promoted sedition and it has been reported from Japan that its suppression was demanded by the British Ambassador. In Japan the proselytizing efforts of Prof. Barakatullah seem to have met with some small measure of success, he having recently received into the brotherhood of Islam Baron Hatano, his wife and another Japanese.

Since his conversion the Baron has started a monthly paper called *El-Islam*, published in the Japanese language, and

efforts are being made to get into touch with the Chinese Mussulmans, who are estimated at sixty millions, which would seem to be an exaggeration of their numbers.

For the moment the Moslems of Africa, owing to their want of cohesion, education and organization, are not a dangerous political or military force. That may come later, but the compact and comparatively advanced body of Mohammedans of Asia, possessing a certain political consciousness, military organizations and capable leaders are in a different category and must be taken into account.

Although the Persians belong to a branch of Islam differing from the vast majority professing the faith a chord of sympathy with them is running through all the other Mohammedan communities. The destruction of the great shrine at Mecca by the Russian bombardment and the horrors perpetrated at Tabriz on the entry of the Russian troops have been heard of all over Asia and the reaction is now being seen in Turkey and Afghanistan, where the possession of armed forces stirs their populations to resist the aggressions of Christian States.



Professor M. Barakatullah



Habibullah Khan King of Afghanistan

PROPOSED PLAN TO BURY NEW YORK'S DEAD ABOVE THE GROUND

It is now a long time since the evil effects which are liable to follow the internment of the dead in ground contiguous to that occupied by the living have been thoroughly appreciated by scientists. Without dwelling on nature's processes, it is enough to say that the germs of typhoid have been traced to cemeteries where the dead have been placed in the ground to await complete dissolution.

It is no remote or imaginary peril that threatens the inhabitants of territory which includes a cemetery of the ordinary or old fashioned type. So well is this now understood that the internment of the

Great Mausoleum on Long Island One Solution of City's Problem of Providing Sufficient Cemetery Room—Crypts in a Concrete Structure to Be Hermetically Sealed—Evils of Interments in the Ground Avoided

in the city limits it has been for a long time a matter of increasing difficulty to secure the ground space necessary for the disposal of the dead in the ordinary way. And the restrictions have been so rigid that it is no longer possible in this part of New York State to purchase additional ground for purposes of interment. It is several years since the Legislature

made it illegal to do this in the counties of Queens and Westchester and last year Mayor Gaynor approved the act, which became a law, including Richmond county in the forbidden region.

That left Nassau and Suffolk counties as the only neighboring territory in which it was possible to establish a new burial ground legally, and there it was

only possible by securing the approval of the authorities. Such approval, it may be said, cannot be obtained, so clearly defined is the knowledge of the public in the matter of danger incurred. It may safely be predicted that no more ground will ever be set aside for interments of the old fashion in the immediate neighborhood of New York city and in-

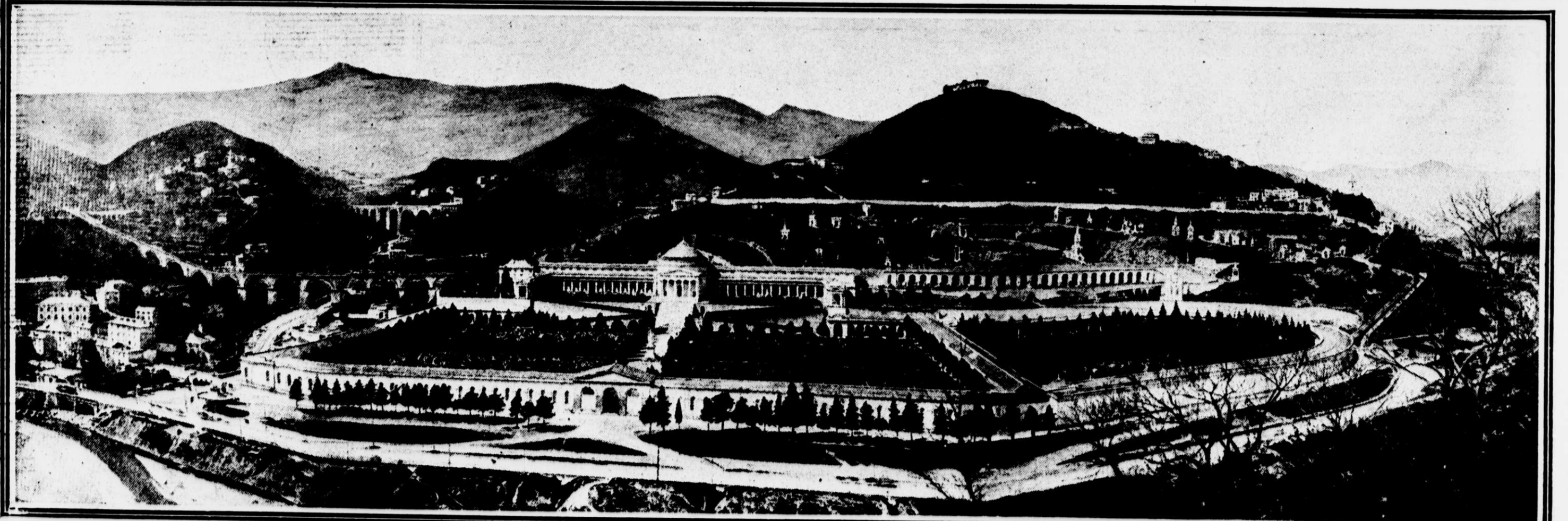
side the limits of the State of New York. Meantime, the problem of how to dispose properly of the remains of the dead is increasing in difficulty. The annual interments ten years ago from New York city alone were about 60,000 in number. Now there are about 80,000 yearly. And some years from now, according to the present rate of the growth of the community, there will be hardly less than 100,000 interments yearly.

The space in the established cemeteries is rapidly being filled up. In many of these cemeteries the ground is already crowded and the limit of accommodation in all of them will soon be reached. There

is therefore a serious question confronting the authorities as to what it will be possible to do in another decade. An obvious expedient would be to secure space in the neighboring States of New Jersey and Connecticut, but it is realized that no such acquisition is likely to be accomplished, since the people of those States are fully as conversant with the objections involved as are the people of New York.

Cremation of the dead has been proposed as a rational solution of the difficulty, and it is well known that crematories are established in certain accessible spots when satisfactory service of this

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MAMMOTH "IN THE AIR" CEMETERY AT GENOA, ITALY, WHICH IT IS PROPOSED NOW TO COPY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THIS CITY.